

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

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FM AMEMBASSY SANAA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3179

USUN NEW YORK 058

INFO AMEMEMBASSY JIDDA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANAA 70

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: YE, PFOR, US, UN

SUBJ: PRESIDENT IRYANI FORMS SPECIAL COMMITTEE TO  
EXAMINE CHARGES AGAINST YAR AMBASSADOR TO US; REPLACE-  
MENT OF YEMENI PERMREP IN NEW YORK AND AMBASSADOR IN  
WASHINGTON.

1. WE RELIABLY INFORMED THAT YAR AMBASSADOR TO US,  
YAHYA GEGHMAN, HAS REFUSED TAKE LYING DOWN THE CHARGES  
AGAINST HIM OF MISUSE OF OFFICIAL FUNDS. HE HAS CALLED  
FOR AN OFFICIAL INQUIRY, AS HE PUTS IT, TO PROVE HIS  
INNOCENCE AND VINDICATE HIS HONOR. IN A MOVE THAT AS  
FAR AS WE ARE AWARE IS WITHOUT PRECEDENT IN YEMEN'S  
RECENT HISTORY, PRESIDENT IRYANI HAS APPOINTED A SELECT  
COMMITTEE TO HEAR THE EVIDENCE AGAINST GEGHMAN AND HIS  
OWN TESTIMONY. COMMITTEE CONSISTS OF THREE OF YARG'S  
MOST SENIOR AND RESPECTED MINISTERS: MIN ECONOMY ASNAG,  
MIN TREASURY JUNEID AND CENTRAL PLANNING ORGANIZATION  
DIRECTOR ABDUL-KARIM AL-IRYANI.

2. IT IS DOUBTFUL THAT COMMITTEE HEARINGS WILL BE HELP-  
FUL TO GEGHMAN. ACCORDING ASNAG, THE EVIDENCE AGAINST  
HIM IS AIRTIGHT. HIS REMOVAL FROM WASHINGTON, ALTHOUGH  
NOT NECESSARILY FROM YEMEN DIPLOMATIC SERVICE, APPEARS  
INEVITABLE.

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3. WE HAVE ASKED OUR CONTACTS ABOUT POSSIBLE REPLACE-

MENTS FOR GEGHMAN IN NEW YORK AND FORMER YEMENI PERMREP  
IN NEW YORK, AL-ATTAR. CURRENT EXPECTATION IS THAT THE  
TWO JOBS WILL AGAIN BE AMALGAMATED. AHMAD BARAKAT,  
YAR'S COMPETENT AMBASSADOR TO BONN, IS THE LEADING CANDI-  
DATE TO FILL BOTH. WE ARE TOLD THERE IS POSSIBILITY,  
HOWEVER, HAT IF CURRENT POLITICAL MANEUVERING IN SANAA  
DOES NOT RESULT IN REINCLUSION OF YARG OF FORMER PRIMIN  
MUHSIN AL-AYNI, HE MIGHT BE OFFERED NEW YORK/WASHINGTON AS  
A BIGGER POLITICAL ARENA FOR PLAY OF HIS POLITICAL AMBI-  
TIONS THAN HIS PRESENT JOB AS AMBASSADOR IN LONDON.  
4. COMMENT: BARAKAT IS WELL AND FAVORABLY KNOWN TO  
EMBASSY. HE IS BRITISH-EDUCATED ENGINEER WHO WAS MEMBER  
FIRST YARG FORMED IN 1962. BARAKAT SERVED AS DIRECTOR  
OF KUWAIT FUND IN YEMEN UNTIL 1966 WHEN HE WAS FORCED TO  
FLEE YEMEN ON FOOT DUE TO HIS OPPOSITION OF EGYPTIAN-  
DOMINATED YARG. HE THEN WORKED WITH KUWAIT FUND\*IN GU F  
UNTIL OVERTHROW SALLAL GOVERNMENT BY MODERATES IN\*LATE  
1967. BARAKAT SERVED BRIEFLY AS FONMIN IN 1971 AND  
SINCE JULY 1972 HAS BEEN AMBASSADOR TO BONN. HE  
ENJOYS REPUTATION FOR COMPETENCE AND HONESTY AMONG HIS  
MODERATE COLLEAGUES IN YARG.  
CRAWFORD

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